

Serial No. 10/673,276

Attorney Docket No. 26E-003-RCE

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12-14, 18, 19 and 20 are pending. Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 15-17 have been canceled. Claims 4, 5, 13 and 14 have been withdrawn. Claim 20 is new. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 12, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 1 was said to be indefinite for the phrase "a tubular seal portion which projects outwardly of the door opening portion" since the door opening portion is not part of the claimed combination. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the tubular seal portion projects towards the door frame. Therefore the language said to render the claim indefinite has been removed.

Claim 1 was further said to be indefinite due to the phrase "curved at an angle." This phrase has been changed to "bent at an angle" in claims 1, 9 and 18.

Claim 18 was said to be indefinite because it was not clear whether the phrase "an outer end edge" referred to the outer end edge that was earlier recited. Claim 18 has been amended to change this to "said outer end edge."

In view of these changes, the claims are considered to be fully definite, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 8, 9, and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Villa *et al.* The applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

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The vehicle door of the present invention is formed by bending a plurality of metal panels such as an outer panel, an inner panel, etc. and joining edges thereof. Accordingly, a measure for increasing the stiffness of the door frame of the thus formed vehicle door is required. To this end, in accordance with the present invention, the door frame is protruded greatly toward the inside of the vehicle body to define a protrusion including the protruding wall and the inside wall.

In contrast, as clearly shown in Fig. 2 of Villa *et al.*, the door is a panel door, and the door frame is formed by bending one metal panel. Accordingly no measure for increasing the stiffness of the door frame is required in the apparatus of Villa *et al.*

The office action indicates that the door 10 of Villa *et al.* has a protrusion which protrudes inwardly. However, the "protrusion" indicated in the office action is not adapted to increase the stiffness of the door 10 but is merely one part of the glass run holding part for holding the glass run (gasket) 17. As shown in Fig. 2 of Villa *et al.*, the inside part of the door frame does not protrude greatly, as compared with the outside part of the door frame, but the protruding widths of the inside part and the outside part of the door frame are substantially equal to each other and very small, as compared with the protrusion of the present invention.

The feature regarded in the office action as a "depression" is merely a transition between the inside wall and the flange in Villa *et al.*

In the present invention, the depression is formed immediately adjacent to the protruding wall and far away from the glass run holding pan. In contrast, the "depression" of Villa *et al.* is not spaced relatively far away from the glass run holding part, and is thus different from the depression of the claims.

With respect to the cover member, the inner end edge of the cover member of the present invention is bent at an angle to the extending direction of the cover member, and is entirely

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seated in the depression provided in the protrusion to prevent the inner end edge of the cover member from contacting the tubular portion of the opening weather strip. In contrast, in *Villa et al.*, the inner end edge of the cover member is not bent and is not entirely seated in the depression, but merely contacts the inside wall of the protrusion and the flange inclusive of the transition therebetween.

The inner end edge of the cover member of *Villa et al.* is also exposed to face the tubular portion of the inner gasket 19. As a result, when the inner end edge of the cover member projects inwardly, due to the variations in the assembling state of the glass run 17, the tubular portion of the inner gasket 19 may be worn by the projecting inner end edge of the cover member. Therefore, the structure of the present invention as claimed in the amended claims is patentably different from that of *Villa et al.*, and claims 1, 8, 9, and 18 cannot be anticipated by *Villa et al.*

Claims 12 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Villa et al.* and *Petrelli*. The applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn because claims 12 and 19 depend on claim 1, directly or indirectly. Therefore, claims 12 and 19 are believed to be patentable for the reasons given above.

Claim 20 is new. Claim 20 recites that a part of the inside wall extends between the glass run holding part and the depression to separate the depression from the glass run holding part. This feature is shown at least in Fig. 4, where, in that embodiment, a part of the inside wall 80 extends between the glass run holding part 60 and the depression 84 to separate the depression 84 from the glass run holding part 60.

Claim 20 is dependent on claim 1 and is thus considered to be patentable for the reasons given above with respect to claim 1. Further, claim 20 is considered to be patentable because

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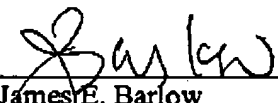
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Villa et al. fails to show a part of the inside wall separating a depression from a glass run holding part, as claimed.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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